

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01306 210840Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 OMB-01
ACDA-12 NEA-10 BIB-01 EUR-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 /099 W
-----068885 210842Z /17

O 210745Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9903
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB/HI IMMEDIATE
13AF CLARK AB, RP IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1306

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

CINCPACAF & 13AF FOR CC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MMOL, IO, SN
SUBJECT: BBC REPORT ON U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT USE OF SINGAPORE
FACILITIES

1. BBC MORNING BROADCAST MARCH 21 CARRIED BRIEF NEWS REPORT
STATING THAT U.S. HAS ASKED SINGAPORE FOR USE OF INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT AS STAGING BASE FOR MILITARY AIRCRAFT COVERING INDIAN
OCEAN. FOLLOWING COMMENTARY ALLEGES THAT SINGAPORE IS "NOW TAKING
BULK" OF U.S. MILITARY TRAFFIC FOR INDIAN OCEAN RATHER THAN
THAILAND, THAT U.S. WILL USE PAYA LEBAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
FOR MILITARY TRAFFIC WHEN NEW
CHANGI AIRPORT IS OPENED IN 1980'S, BY IMPLICATION THAT LT.
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GENERAL HILL (CINCPACAF) AND MAJOR GENERAL POSTON (13AF)
DISCUSSED THIS POSSIBILITY WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE GOH KENG
SWEE AND INSPECTED PAYA LEBAR FACILITIES AND THAT VISIT OF SOVIET
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FIRYUBIN'S RECENT VISIT MAY HAVE BEEN
IN REACTION TO U.S. REQUEST FOR AIRPORT FACILITIES.

2. WE SUSPECT EMERGENCY LANDING OF 12 AIRCRAFT FROM KITTYHAWK

ON MARCH 12 MAY HAVE GENERATED PRESS SPECULATION REGARDING USE OF SINGAPORE FACILITIES, NOTABLY PAYA LEBAR, BY U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AND THAT CURRENT STORY IS OUTGROWTH. THERE MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN LEAKS FROM MFA RESULTING FROM RECENT EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON P-3 STAGING THROUGH SINGAPORE. BBC REPORT STRINGS TOGETHER A SERIES OF LARGELY UNRELATED EVENTS AND IS MISTAKEN ON SEVERAL COUNTS:

- U.S. DOES NOT NOW USE ANY SINGAPORE AIRPORT FOR MILITARY FLIGHTS" COVERING INDIAN OCEAN", I.E., P-3 SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS;

- WE HAVE NOT REQUESTED USE OF PAYA LEBAR FOR U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT;

- GENERAL HILL DID NOT DISCUSS U.S. REQUEST FOR P-3 STAGING DURING HIS RECENT VISIT AND HIS CALLS ON GOS OFFICIALS, INCLUDING GOH KENG SWEE, WERE PURELY OF A PROTOCOL NATURE;

- HE DID NOT INSPECT PAYA LEBAR FACILITIES.

3. WE HAVE ALREADY HAD FURTHER PRESS INQUIRIES. BBC REPORT IS SUFFICIENTLY ERRONEOUS FOR US TO SAY THAT THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE TO IT, AND WE HAVE TAKEN THIS LINE.

4. WE HOPE THAT STORY WILL NOT GET MUCH FURTHER THAN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO'S PAPERS, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND REUTERS MAY BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PUTTING OUT RELATED STORY. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH GOS, WHICH HAS NO INTEREST IN PUBLICITY AND WHICH WILL NO DOUBT TRY TO PLUG ANY POSSIBLE LEAKS. EVEN SO, WE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT NOTHING FURTHER BE DONE ON P-3 STAGING UNTIL STORY HAS TIME TO BLOW OVER; I.E., THREE OR FOUR WEEKS.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP01306
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: SINGAPORE
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780342/aaaabjhl.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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TAGS: PEPR, MMOL, XO, SN, US
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